BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of
Management Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca

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- **Retail sales in BC edge up 0.2% in November**
- **Wholesale sales slip 0.5%**
- **R&D spending climbs to $1.7 billion in 2001**

The Economy

- **Sales by retailers in the province edged up 0.2% (seasonally adjusted) in November, following a stronger gain (+0.4%) in the previous month.** Canadian sales slipped (-0.3%) in November. The auto sector was responsible for much of the decline at the national level, with sales dropping off 1.8% in November. Drug store sales were down 0.7%, but retailers of most other products posted solid gains, ranging from +0.6% for supermarkets, grocery & food stores to +1.9%for furniture retailers.

  In Ontario, sales fell for the seventh time since the beginning of the year. Sales were also off in Quebec (-0.6%), Saskatchewan (-1.0%) and most of Atlantic Canada. Manitoba (+1.4%), where sales bounced back after falling in October, was the only province to see a strong increase in the value of retail sales.*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Wholesale sales in the province slipped (-0.5%, seasonally adjusted) in November, falling for the first time in five months.** Sales edged down (-0.1%) at the national level. Wholesalers in Ontario saw no change from October levels, while Alberta (-1.0%), Quebec (-0.6%) and BC posted significant declines.

  Total Canadian sales of lumber and building materials fell 1.0% in November, after posting an even larger decline (-3.9%) in the previous month. However, wholesalers of industrial & other machinery (+0.5%) and computers, software & packaged electronics (+1.3%) saw solid increases in the value of their sales.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of British Columbians receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits fell 4.2% (to 65,090, seasonally adjusted) between October and November.** Nationally, here were 1.4% fewer EI beneficiaries in November than in the previous month, with six provinces reporting declines. Newfoundland (+1.3%) and Manitoba (+1.0%) were the only provinces to see a substantial increase.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts in the province fell 1.3% (seasonally adjusted) between October and November.** Spending at food service establishments was off 1.4%, but drinking places saw an upturn in revenues (+1.1%) after three months of decline. Canadian revenues edged up 0.2% overall, also largely due to increased spending at drinking places (+0.8%). Food service receipts edged up (+0.1%) in November.*Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

R&D Expenditures

- **Total spending on research and development (R&D) activities in the province increased 3.8% in 2001, to $1.7 billion.** About half ($866 million, up from $836 million in 2000) of these R&D expenditures were funded by business enterprises. The federal government ($278 million), institutes of higher education ($262 million) and foreign organizations ($151 million) were other important sources of funding for R&D activities in BC.

  Almost all of the R&D was carried out by the business sector ($992 million) or by educational institutions ($559 million). Other organizations performing R&D activities during 2001 include the federal ($97 million) and provincial ($22 million) governments, and private non-profit ($9 million) institutions.

  Data Source: SC, Catalogue 88F0006XIE

Juggling Work and Leisure Time

- **The total amount of time individuals spend doing paid and unpaid work has remained relatively stable since 1986, but both men and women are allocating more of their time to**

Did you know...
One in four British Columbians say they walk no more than 1,000 steps on an average day. In Alberta, 37% of people surveyed by Ipsos-Reid said they walked fewer than 1,000 steps. The national average was 28%.

leisure activities. The increase in leisure activities has come at the expense of time spent on personal care (sleeping, eating, or engaging in religious or spiritual activities).

However, time use patterns vary considerably among age groups. In 1998, adolescent women (aged 15 to 24, including students and those who were employed) spent less time either working or attending school than their counterparts did in 1986. In contrast, married women (aged 25-44) allocated slightly more time to paid work than they did in 1986, largely because proportionally more of them were in the work force. The number of hours spent doing unpaid work was very consistent.

Among the young, the substitution has been from time spent working to time spent on leisure activities (which increased from roughly four-and-a-half hours a day in 1986 to about six hours per day in 1998). Mothers aged 25-44 compensated for the increased demands on their time by taking less time for themselves.

As was the case for young women, young men are spending less time working or attending school, and more time engaged in leisure activities than they did in 1986. However, those aged 25-44 are devoting more hours to work or schooling.

Men, especially married men or fathers aged 25 and over, spend much more of their time working or pursuing an education than women do. Not surprisingly, the difference is greatest for parents in the 25-44 age group, with women spending less than 4 hours, while men put in about 6 hours, working every day. Mothers continue to carry a heavier load (averaging about 6 hours daily, compared to less than four for men) when it comes to unpaid work, so the total amount of time spent in productive work is similar for both men and women.

Data Source: SC, Catalogue 89-584

The Nation

- **Canadian manufacturer's prices were 3.4% lower in December than in the same month of 2002.** The drop in prices was largely due to the continuing effect of a strong Canadian dollar, as many of the products manufactured in this country are destined for use in the US and overseas and prices are often denominated in US currency. BC softwood lumber prices fell for the 19th time in the last 20 months. Producers received 10.3% less for newsprint destined for export markets, but prices for BC pulpwood chips were up 2.4%. Natural gas prices rose a relatively moderate 0.8% after soaring earlier in the year. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The Canadian economy stalled in November, with real GDP at basic prices remaining unchanged from the October level.** Both the goods and service sectors were flat in November. On the goods side, there was a downturn in the mining, oil & gas industry (-1.0%), and little or no growth in agriculture, fishing & forestry (-0.1%) and manufacturing (0.0%). Output in the wood sector was weak, with sawmill operators reporting a 3.4% drop in production, partly due to a strike in BC. The strong value of the Canadian dollar also dampened demand for Canadian wood products.

Among service-producing industries, six out of 13 groups posted declines, while two were flat in November. The largest decline was in arts, entertainment & recreation (-2.5%). Wholesale (-0.4%) and retail (-0.5%) trade, as well as finance, insurance & real estate (-0.1%) shrank in November. Together, these industries account for nearly half of total GDP in the service sector. On a more positive note, GDP in the transportation and warehousing industry expanded (+0.9%) for the third straight month, as the airline industry received a boost from increased international travel.

GDP rose 1.8% in the energy sector, reflecting higher production of and exploration for natural gas. Additionally, cold temperatures in the West boosted consumer demand for natural gas and electricity. The information and communication technologies industries advanced 0.2% in November. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

BC STATS, Box Stn Prov Govt, Victoria. BC V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca

Infoline Report

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Contact: Warren Munroe (250) 387-0334
Originally published in *Migration Highlights*, Issue 03-3.

Regional Migration

Summary

Migration, both between provinces and within the province, is a major factor in the population change of regions in British Coulmbia. In addition to affecting the total population, the age of the migrants also influences the types of goods and services required to meet the needs of people.

Unlike international migration, which is largely concentrated in the lower mainland, interprovincial migration (between other provinces) and intraprovincial migration (between regions within BC) have a more wide-spread impact across the province. Information on regional migration is now available for the period July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. During this period the province experienced negative net migration, an outflow of 6,994 people to other provinces. This resulted from a relatively small inflow of 52,654 people from other parts of the country, accompanied by higher outflows of 59,715 people. The following table shows the regional districts with the largest inflows as well as those with the largest outflows.

Across the province, eight regions had positive net migration, inflows, from other provinces. Perhaps not surprisingly, the Capital Region had the highest inflow with 6,473 people moving in—while 5,045 people moved out—for a population increase of 1,428 people. The other large core area in the province, the Greater Vancouver Regional District, on the other hand, had the largest negative net interprovincial migration with 22,196 people moving in but 24,474 people moving out to other provinces resulting in a net outflow of 2,278 people. Other high negative figures came from the interior of the province; from Fraser-Fort George and Thompson-Nicola.

Table 1. Interprovincial Migration, 2001 to 2002 for BC Regional Districts

Regional District	18 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 64		65 +		Total (all ages)		Net
	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	Migration
CAPITAL	1,514	1,106	2,285	2,093	1,094	544	448	351	6,473	5,045	1,428
NANAIMO	327	344	512	531	621	250	268	129	2,087	1,705	382
SQUAMISH-LILLOOET	411	163	299	288	42	46	15	2	852	579	273
COWICHAN VALLEY	97	155	249	225	202	96	73	45	836	713	123
FORT NELSON-LIARD	93	21	130	123	34	31	2	3	340	267	73
POWELL RIVER	17	37	89	42	30	36	8	4	192	151	41
STIKINE	4	8	39	32	19	8	4	4	96	75	21
SUNSHINE COAST	42	56	83	90	75	34	16	15	273	265	8
CENTRAL COAST	2	9	8	15	2	2	0	3	12	40	-28
ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT	42	55	93	102	22	28	9	6	196	245	-49
MOUNT WADDINGTON	26	32	43	50	7	12	0	5	95	149	-54
CENTRAL OKANAGAN	497	784	1,009	1,039	631	382	285	284	3,139	3,196	-57
SKEENA-QUEEN CHARLOTTE	18	63	95	111	20	44	6	3	202	288	-86
KOOTENAY BOUNDARY	79	151	114	164	76	58	16	13	356	511	-155
CENTRAL KOOTENAY	256	343	355	346	144	161	53	56	1,036	1,201	-165
OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN	153	327	322	378	269	207	162	148	1,191	1,393	[illegible]
NORTH OKANAGAN	187	370	367	404	219	159	99	125	1,172	1,436	-264
COLUMBIA-SHUSWAP	170	299	274	320	158	174	45	69	841	1,152	[illegible]
EAST KOOTENAY	370	628	535	524	195	220	58	50	1,514	1,857	-343
COMOX-STRATHCONA	249	394	543	645	224	224	66	67	1,479	1,824	-345
BULKLEY-NECHAKO	102	178	138	266	36	78	12	10	380	749	-369
KITIMAT-STIKINE	71	188	158	238	35	97	11	9	382	760	-378
PEACE RIVER	373	464	524	764	188	281	42	37	1,588	[illegible]	-637
CARIBOO	104	284	164	353	59	137	25	24	486	1,124	-638
FRASER-VALLEY	439	709	911	1,158	309	360	169	190	2,584	3,492	-908
THOMPSON-NICOLA	306	742	491	740	195	302	82	101	1,528	2,534	-1,006
FRASER-FORT GEORGE	250	563	403	746	102	235	38	31	1,128	2,198	-1,070
GREATER VANCOUVER	4,807	4,111	9,659	11,194	2,618	2,792	1,068	852	22,196	24,474	-2,278

Intraprovincial migration measures the number of people moving from one area to another within the province. Over the 2001 to 2002 time period, only 90,155 people migrated between Regional Districts, a relatively low figure. There tends to be a relationship between interprovincial migration and intraprovincial migration. Periods when there are more people moving into BC from other parts of the country.

For example, in 1989/1990, 82,200 people migrated to BC from other provinces and 140,800 people relocated to another region within the province. The comparable figures for 2001/2002 were 52,654 people in from other provinces and 90,140 people moving within the province. The ratio for both components for both years being approximately two to three. Both types of movement may reflect the general economic situation in the province. However, as is discussed later, retirement is increasingly influencing migration patterns.

In the 2001/2002 time period, the Central Okanagan and the Capital Region had net inflows of people from within the province, with estimates of 1,593 and 1,148 respectively. Again, as was the case for interprovincial migration, Greater Vancouver and Fraser-Fort George had the highest net intraprovincial outflows with estimates of -1,732 and -920 respectively. The following table shows the regional districts with the largest inflows as well as those with the largest outflows.

Greater Vancouver has experienced a reduction in net outflows to both other provinces and other regions during the last several years from highs of over -8,700 people per year in 1998/1999 to -4,650 in 2000/2001 and -4,010 in 2001/2002. This is due in large part to a decline in negative net interprovincial migration from highs of over -5,000 people in 1998/1999 to -2,275 in 2001/2002. However, in each time period the region received net inflows of people from other countries. Over 90% of the people coming to the province from other countries move to the Greater Vancouver Regional District. In 2001/2002, over 18,000 immigrants moved to the GVRD. Other regions of the province receive much lower international migration. In 2001/2002, the Fraser Valley had the second highest number of immigrants at 587 people while the Capital Region received 586 people from outside of Canada.

Table 2. Intraprovincial Migration, 2001 to 2002 for BC Regional Districts

Regional District	18 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 64		65 +		Total		Net
	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	Migration
CENTRAL OKANAGAN	999	913	1,946	1,562	1,139	616	589	340	5,874	4,281	1,593
CAPITAL	1,992	1,495	3,249	3,031	1,390	1,190	660	698	8,818	7,670	1,148
NANAIMO	713	889	1,744	1,557	1,210	672	597	486	5,426	4,597	829
FRASER-VALLEY	1,266	1,346	3,304	2,927	1,487	1,360	703	776	9,188	8,370	818
OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN	362	509	988	768	855	393	447	334	3,355	2,539	816
NORTH OKANAGAN	448	538	1,105	865	659	471	354	220	3,332	2,630	702
THOMPSON-NICOLA	737	852	1,849	1,400	808	667	333	288	4,725	4,136	589
SUNSHINE COAST	120	200	420	335	297	201	132	142	1,203	1,119	84
COMOX-STRATHCONA	491	770	1,199	1,113	630	522	262	204	3,417	3,362	55
NORTHERN ROCKIES	63	35	114	105	30	36	1	3	298	271	27
COWICHAN VALLEY	345	538	1,024	905	535	478	246	277	2,776	2,770	6
EAST KOOTENAY	194	311	532	447	233	223	78	122	1,396	1,416	-20
STIKINE	4	10	25	40	18	12	3	2	76	98	-22
CENTRAL COAST	20	36	78	102	36	35	8	11	195	249	-54
COLUMBIA-SHUSWAP	254	401	720	667	443	393	164	219	2,091	2,168	-77
PEACE RIVER	306	280	576	617	205	294	88	50	1,628	1,735	-107
SQUAMISH-LILLOOET	373	331	730	800	220	250	73	64	1,711	1,849	-138
KOOTENAY BOUNDARY	131	267	390	320	170	205	79	104	1,032	1,177	-145
MOUNT WADDINGTON	110	128	238	276	85	157	32	26	624	787	-163
POWELL RIVER	75	145	192	230	89	119	41	46	522	721	-199
CENTRAL KOOTENAY	307	418	643	626	279	332	92	188	1,767	1,970	-203
ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT	204	289	404	413	124	183	59	75	1,087	1,291	-204
BULKLEY-NECHAKO	203	386	557	670	190	289	36	70	1,435	1,999	-564
SKEENA-QUEEN CHARLOTTE	84	196	298	489	82	222	18	43	685	1,282	-597
CARIBOO	341	630	788	1,015	404	439	128	149	2,268	3,003	-735
KITIMAT-STIKINE	165	344	427	640	143	331	26	75	1,138	1,925	-787
FRASER-FORT GEORGE	664	779	1,161	1,539	377	594	139	158	3,226	4,146	-920
GREATER VANCOUVER	5,005	2,940	7,665	8,707	2,914	4,366	1,577	1,833	20,847	22,579	-1,732

Age of Migrants

Migrants are most often people in their late teens to mid-twenties, usually moving away from their childhood home, seeking education and or employment. Thereafter, often those between 25 an' 44 move again to start families of their own, for work and to improve their housing. Between 45 and 64, people tend to move as children leave the home and in some cases, as work is no longer required. After 65, people may move due to retirement, sometimes moving away from high density areas to places outside of high commuter flows or they may move to be closer to amenities.

In the 2001/2002 time period, approximately 38% of population loss as a result of net **interprovincial** migration was between the ages of 25 and 44. Persons in this age group tend to move for economic reasons, often aimed at meeting commitments to the nuclear family. Although, the 18 to 24 year old age group only includes six years, or less than a third of the 25 to 44 age group, they accounted for over 20% of the population loss in 2001/2002. Persons in this age group tend to have fewer commitments, both in terms of family and assets, than those in the older age groups, resulting in relatively lower social and economic costs from migration.

Intraprovincial migration is more evenly distributed by age. In many cases the social and economic costs of moving to another part of the province are much lower than for moving between BC and another province, especially if the move is to a neighbouring region.

Although the proportion of interprovincial migration attributable to seniors is relatively small, it is increasing as more people move into retirement age and as retirees become increasingly mobile. As well, their migration is less likely to be affected by the relative economic conditions in different provinces. Nonetheless, interprovincial migration for people in this age group is far less likely than is intraprovincial migration. In 2001/2002, only 3,080 people 65 and over moved into the province while approximately 7,000 elderly moved within the province. The main reason for moving long distances is to be closer to family. While the GVRD and the Capital Region had opposite migratino flow totals, they had similar flows for those over 65. Both regions had more interprovincial in-migrants than out-migrants, while they also had more intraprovincial out-migrants than in-migrants while they also had more intraprovincial out-migrants than in-migrants. Perhaps, one of the reasons that the Central Okanagan has such a high positive net intraprovincial migration is that it attracts people of working age as well as those who no longer need to live in close proximity to work, eg. retirees. Yet, while this region gained close to 1,600 people in 2001/2002 from intraprovincial migration it lost approximately 60 people to other provinces. The greatest net loss was for those 18 to 24, with 497 moving in but 784 moving out. However, this trend of negative net interprovincial migration for this age group was not uncommon as only four regions had positive figures. The Capital Region and the GVRD had more people move in than out, perhaps due to educational opportunities as well as other economic and social reasons. Squamish-Lillooet also had positive flows, likely due to the attractiveness of the Whistler resort for work and play. The only other region with positive flows for youths was the Northern Rockies which has been particularly attractive to males who can earn relatively high wages while living in wide open spaces.

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- Summarizing, graphing, and presenting survey findings

Date & Location

February 18–20, 2004 8:30am – 4:30pm
Brittingham Conference Room
Bedford Regency Hotel
1140 Government St, Victoria

Fees

Early Bird Rate: $699 + GST
(register two weeks before the workshop)
Regular Fee: $750 + GST
Ask about in-house options!

Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

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Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. **Fees will be refunded, less $75 administrative charge, if written notice is received at least one week prior to the workshop.** Substitutions are permitted at any time. Group rates are also available.

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Infoline

January 30, 2004

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/03	% change on one year ago
BC	4,158.6	0.8
Canada	31,714.6	0.8
GDP and INCOME *(BC - at market prices)*	2002	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	135,552	2.7
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	128,151	2.4
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	31,143	1.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,576	0.1
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov	2,815	1.0
Merchandise Exports - Nov	2,268	-2.8
Retail Sales - Nov	3,414	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX *(all items - 1992=100)*	Dec '03	12-month avg % change
BC	120.9	2.2
Canada	122.8	2.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands) *(seasonally adjusted)*	Dec '03	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,223	0.2
Employed - BC	2,071	1.0
Unemployed - BC	151	-9.5
		Nov '03
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.8	7.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.4	7.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 28/04	Jan 29/03
Prime Business Rate	4.25	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.30	4.90
- 5 year	6.05	6.45
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 28/04	Jan 29/03
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.3217	1.5227
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.7545	0.6569
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE *(industrial aggregate - dollars)*	Dec '03	% change on one year ago
BC	679.72	0.5
Canada	668.75	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2001 Economic Dependencies & Impact Ratios for 63 Local Areas

British Columbia's Heartland at the Dawn of the 21st Century

This report was prepared to provide economists in the province of British Columbia with up-to-date consistent information on the local economies in the rural areas of the province and to help in the estimation of the economic impacts of changes in those local economies. It is the latest in a series of reports that use data from the Canadian Census and other sources.

Full report is available at:

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/econ_dep.htm

Released this week by BC STATS

- Business Indicators, January 2004

Next week

- Earnings & Employment Trends, Dec. 2003
- Current Statistics, January 2004